

1998 LOUISIANA AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS

Compiled by
Louisiana Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA
Dave Frank, State Statistician
Becky Cross, State Deputy Statistician
5825 Florida Blvd.
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70806

Statisticians

Jimmy Bellelo
Matt Guilbeau
Jill Johnson
Brenda Kolar
Terry Mathews
April Riggs

Support Staff

Judy French
Jean Guy
Karen Guidry
Janeen Hawkins
Evelyn Marler
Pam Meaulance
Shirley Stansbury
Tina Taylor

In Cooperation With

U.S. Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service
Donald M. Bay, Administrator
Washington, D.C. 20250

and

Hector O. Zapata

Department of Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness

Louisiana State University Agricultural Center
William B. Richardson, Chancellor

Louisiana Agricultural Experiment Station
R. Larry Rogers, Vice-Chancellor and Director

Department of Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness
Dr. Kenneth W. Paxton, Prof. And Head

Dear Friends in Agriculture,

The year 1998 was a very challenging one for producers in Louisiana. The severe drought during the year reduced yields in all crops, and created a terrible aflatoxin problem in corn. The extreme heat and dryness during the growing season stressed cattle, reduced hay yields, and made green pastures nonexistent. Management decisions are extremely important as profit margins narrow. Current reliable statistics are the critical component that provides a basis for sound management decisions. "1998 Louisiana Agricultural Statistics" emphasizes the importance of agriculture to the overall economy of Louisiana. Farm level cash receipts totaled slightly less than \$1.9 billion, not to mention the value added to production within the State.

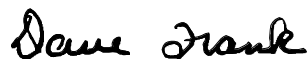
We are pleased to present the 1998 Louisiana Agricultural Statistics Bulletin. This publication is a cooperative effort between the Louisiana Agricultural Statistics Service and the Department of Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness, Louisiana State University. The sources of information continued in this issue are wide and varied. We would like to acknowledge the voluntary support of the state's agribusinesses, farmers, and ranchers, all of whom supply most of the information compiled in this bulletin. Without their voluntary reporting, this report would not be possible. We would also like to recognize the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry, farm organizations, and growers' associations for their support.

We have made a number of changes to the bulletin this year. Parish estimates data are published for 1998 only. All of the historical data series presented in this bulletin are for 1995-1998 (with the exception of cattle and sheep, where 1999 data are available). We have added a number of new data series to the bulletin, such as floriculture, catfish, and chemical use information. We have reformatted the entire publication so that it will be easier to read and locate needed information.

The Louisiana Agricultural Statistics Service employees are committed and dedicated to serving the agricultural data needs of our users. Please contact us anytime with questions, comments, and requests for information. We have all of our releases available on the Internet at www.nass.usda.gov/la. All national level releases can be accessed from our headquarters Internet site at www.usda.gov/nass/, and are available immediately after the release of the report. As a data user, you may also receive free automatic e-mail subscriptions to many of our reports, simply go to the following website via Internet and follow the quick and simple instructions at www.nass.usda.gov/sub-form.htm.

Louisiana counts on Agriculture.

Sincerely -

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dave Frank". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly stylized font.

Dave Frank
State Statistician

**THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS AND AGRIBUSINESS
LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY AGRICULTURAL CENTER
LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY**

The Department of Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness carries on an extensive and coordinated program of teaching, organized research and public service in a wide variety of professional subject matter areas.

Subject matter areas include:

Agricultural business management	Land and water economics
Farm organization and management	Applied computer programming
Statistical analysis of agricultural data	Cooperatives
Resource, rural and community development	Price analysis
Environmental economics and ecology	Tropical resource development
Marketing-(general and commodity)	International trade
Agricultural policy and public programs	Agricultural credit and finance

The department's research in these areas is part of the organized research program of the Louisiana Agricultural Experiment Station, a division of the Louisiana State University Agricultural Center. Much of the research is in cooperation with other state research stations, the USDA, and other State and Federal agencies.

The combination of teaching, organized research and service provides an efficient, effective, and productive use of resources invested in higher educational and service to the public. Emphasis in research is on solving practical problems important to various segments of the economy. Research results are made available for immediate use in the Louisiana Cooperative Extension Service and other educational and action agencies, including the Department of Vocational Agricultural Education, the Farmers Home Administration, the Soil Conservation Service, the Federal Farm Credit System, other government agencies, farm organizations, business and industrial firms, and individuals. Research results are used in decisions regarding the economics of land use, farm credit, resource, community and rural development, agricultural production and marketing, agribusiness, cooperatives, and public policy.

The department's coordinated teaching, research and service program provides professional training for careers in a wide variety of occupations in education, agribusiness, industry and government services. Departmental course work is supplemented by courses in other disciplines, programs lead to degrees at three levels: Bachelor of Science, Master of Science, and Doctor of Philosophy. Course work in all curricula provides knowledge of tools and techniques useful for decision making. Emphasis in the undergraduate program centers on developing the student's managerial ability. The graduate program builds on the undergraduate background, strengthening basic knowledge and adding more sophisticated analytical skills and business capabilities.

For further information write to:

Dr. Kenneth W. Paxton, Professor and Head
Dept. of Agric. Econ. and Agribus.
Louisiana State University
Baton Rouge, LA 70803-5604

<http://rich.agadm.lsu.edu>